



J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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June 22, 2006

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *tm*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – TRINITY
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES, TRINITY EL MONTE GROUP
HOME**

We have completed a review of Trinity El Monte Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Trinity Children and Family Services, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Trinity El Monte Group Home is a 53-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Trinity El Monte Group Home was providing services for 51 Los Angeles County DCFS children, and one San Diego County child.

Trinity El Monte Group Home is located in the First District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program

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services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the treatment services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to provide children with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance, and offer all children photo albums/life books.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:dl
http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
James Adams, Campus Director, Trinity El Monte Group Home
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Trinity Children And Family Services
Trinity El Monte Group Home
11057 Basye Street
El Monte, California 91731
Phone: (626) 444-0539
License Number: 191604301
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Trinity El Monte Group is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Five

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include short and long-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Five

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Five

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Five

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Five

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. However, children are not provided with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books. However, one child reports that he has not been offered a photo album/life book.

Recommendations

1. Trinity Children and Family Services management;

- a. Provide children with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance.**
- b. Ensure all children are offered photo albums/life books.**



TRINITY EL MONTE

ATTACHMENT
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April 19, 2006

Attention: Candace Rhue, Donald Luther
Department of Auditor-Controller, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 515-A
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Faxed to 213-346-9020

Ms. Rhue and Mr. Luther,

Please find our responses to the recommendations listed in the audit report addressing the visit to Trinity El Monte on February 23, 2006:

Recommendation 1a-Trinity Youth Services management will provide the children with monthly documentation of their \$50 clothing allowance and clothing allowance balances.

Trinity Youth Services is currently using a document the minors sign verifying they are aware they receive \$50 monthly that they may use toward the purchase of clothing of their choice. Trinity will replace this document with a new document that requires them to sign more frequently, and lists the current balance with each signature while demonstrating the monthly \$50 addition to the account. This will be referred to as attachment A and is included with this response.

Recommendation 1b-Trinity Youth Services will encourage and assist all children in creating and updating photo albums/life books.

Trinity creates a life book for each client in our care they may take when they graduate, as part of our current program. It will be easy to simply add routine recreation activities that involve clients updating their own albums with the pictures that are taken, or doing arts/crafts that they can add to the books. These activities will be assigned on the recreation schedule routinely throughout the year so all clients remain aware of their albums.

TRINITY EL MONTE

4026 Peck Road, #204
El Monte, California 91732

T (626) 444-0539

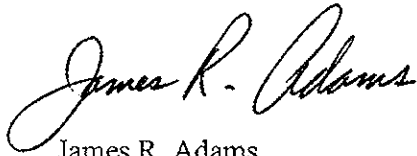
F (626) 444-7900

Empowering Children and Families for Over Forty Years
Trinity Residential Services is a division of Trinity Youth Services

www.trinityelmonte.org

If there are any questions or concerns with the above proposed Corrective Action Plan, please do not hesitate to contact us, and we will address concerns immediately. Thank you very much to Mr. Luther for a very professional and courteous site review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James R. Adams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

James R. Adams
Trinity El Monte Director

Clothing Accountability (Attachment A)

Client Name				Admit			
Date	<input type="text"/>	Balance	<input type="text"/>	Purchases	<input type="text"/>	New Balance	<input type="text"/>
I received \$50 more in my account this month. I do not wish to purchase clothing at this time.							
Initial <input type="text"/>							
Client Signature <input type="text"/>							
Date	<input type="text"/>	Balance	<input type="text"/>	Purchases	<input type="text"/>	New Balance	<input type="text"/>
I received \$50 more in my account this month. I do not wish to purchase clothing at this time.							
Initial <input type="text"/>							
Client Signature <input type="text"/>							
Date	<input type="text"/>	Balance	<input type="text"/>	Purchases	<input type="text"/>	New Balance	<input type="text"/>
I received \$50 more in my account this month. I do not wish to purchase clothing at this time.							
Initial <input type="text"/>							
Client Signature <input type="text"/>							
Date	<input type="text"/>	Balance	<input type="text"/>	Purchases	<input type="text"/>	New Balance	<input type="text"/>
I received \$50 more in my account this month. I do not wish to purchase clothing at this time.							
Initial <input type="text"/>							
Client Signature <input type="text"/>							
Date <input type="text"/>							

I understand that I receive \$50 per month as a clothing allowance.